

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for delivering digital content on demand in a multiple unit environment, the system comprising:

a server local to the multiple unit environment, the server including a memory storing the digital content and content metadata about the digital content stored in the memory of the server, and capable of supporting multiple simultaneous asynchronous accesses to the digital content;

a billing system for billing each individual unit based on use of the digital content, the billing system coupled to the server and the content metadata including a plurality of default rates for the digital content, a plurality of custom rates for the digital content, and a plurality of rate keys, each rate key associated with at least one of the custom rates;

at least one access system in a plurality of units in the multiple unit environment, the access system designed to access the digital content stored in the memory on the server; and

a user profile including user metadata including at least one of the rate keys;

wherein the billing system is configured to:

access a default product rate for the digital content;

access a default category rate for the digital content;

provide the default product rate or the default category rate as the default rate based on an existence of the default product rate; and

select a rate for the digital content from among the default rates and the custom rates in response to the rate key of the user metadata.

2. – 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the access system includes a set-top box designed to enable access to the digital content, the set-top box coupled to the server and to a display in the unit.

9. - 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, the system further comprising:

a user profile including user metadata; and
means for conditionally accessing the digital content based on an interaction between the content metadata and the user metadata.

14. - 19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein:
the system further comprises a user profile including a rate key; and
the billing system is designed to use the custom rate when the rate key identifies the custom rate.

21.- 23. (Cancelled)

24. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein:
the system further comprises:
a user profile including user metadata; and
an advertisement; and
the server is designed to display the advertisement to the unit when the advertisement matches the user metadata.

25. (Original) A system according to claim 24, wherein the user profile is stored in a memory on a second server and is accessible from the server.

26. - 28. (Cancelled)

29. (Original) A system according to claim 1, the system further comprising a digital content selection apparatus, including:
a profile tracker designed to track an access to a user profile, the user profile including user metadata;
a profile analyzer designed to analyze the user metadata; and
a digital content delivery apparatus designed to offer digital content satisfying the user metadata.

30. – 31. (Cancelled)

32. (Original) A system according to claim 1, the system further comprising a second server offsite from the multiple unit environment, the second server coupled to the server to provide digital content to the server.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A method for delivering digital content, the method comprising:

receiving a request for the digital content from a unit in a multiple unit environment at a server;

accessing the digital content from a memory on the server;

delivering the digital content to the unit, the delivery of the digital content being independent of an asynchronous delivery of a second digital content to a second unit in the multiple unit environment;

accessing a default rate for the digital content including:

accessing a default product rate for the digital content;

accessing a default category rate for the digital content; and

providing the default product rate or the default category rate as the default rate based on an existence of the default product rate;

accessing a custom rate for the digital content;

accessing a rate key from a user profile; and

selecting the default rate or the custom rate for the digital content, based on the rate key.

35. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 34, wherein delivering the digital content includes enabling the unit to access an internetwork, wherein the digital content is digital video content.

36. (Original) A method according to claim 34, wherein delivering the digital content includes delivering video to the unit.

37. (Original) A method according to claim 34, wherein receiving a request includes receiving a request for the digital content from a set-top box in the unit.

38. (Original) A method according to claim 34, wherein delivering the digital content includes:

- accessing content metadata about the digital content;
- accessing a filter from a user profile; and
- delivering the digital content to the unit if the content metadata satisfies the filter.

39. (Original) A method according to claim 38, wherein delivering the digital content further includes denying the digital content if the content metadata does not satisfies the filter.

40. (Original) A method according to claim 38, wherein accessing a filter includes accessing the filter from the user profile stored in a memory on a second server.

41. (Original) A method according to claim 38, wherein:

- delivering the digital content includes delivering a video to the unit;
- accessing content metadata includes accessing a rating for the video;
- accessing a filter includes accessing a maximum allowable rating from the user profile;

and

delivering the digital content includes delivering the video to the unit if the rating is below the maximum allowable rating.

42. (Original) A method according to claim 34, wherein delivering the digital content includes:

- accessing content metadata about the digital content;
- accessing user metadata from a user profile; and
- conditionally delivering the digital content to the unit based on an interaction between the content metadata and the user metadata.

43. (Cancelled)
44. (Cancelled)
45. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 34, wherein accessing a rate key further comprises:
transferring the user profile to the server from a second server outside of the multiple unit environment.
46. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 34, further comprising:
accessing a discount rate key from the user profile; and
applying a discount to the selected rate based on the discount rate key;
wherein the discount rate key indicates a plurality of discounts for the digital content.
47. (Original) A method according to claim 34, the method further comprising:
accessing user metadata about a user profile; and
selecting an advertisement that matches the user metadata; and
sending the advertisement to the unit.
48. (Original) A method according to claim 47, wherein accessing user metadata includes accessing the user metadata about the user profile stored in a memory on a second server.
49. (Original) A method according to claim 34, the method further comprising
sending the digital content from a second server to the server for storage until requested by the unit.
50. (Original) A method according to claim 34, the method further comprising:
accessing a bill for the digital content; and
displaying the bill in the unit.

51. (Original) A computer-readable medium containing a program to deliver digital content, the program being executable on a computer system to implement the method of claim 34.

52. – 66. (Cancelled)

67. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 34, further comprising:

receiving a signal to pause the delivery of the digital content; and
pausing the access and delivery of the digital content to the unit.

68. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 67, wherein receiving a signal includes receiving the signal to pause the delivery of the digital content from a remote control.

69. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 68, wherein receiving the signal to pause the delivery of the digital content from a remote control includes receiving a wireless signal to pause the delivery of the digital content from the remote control.

70. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 67, wherein pausing the access and delivery includes suspending the access of the digital content from the memory on the server.

71. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 67, further comprising:

receiving a signal to resume the delivery of the digital content; and
resuming the access and delivery of the digital content to the unit.

72. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 71, wherein receiving a signal includes receiving the signal to resume the delivery of the digital content from a remote control.

73. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 72, wherein receiving the signal to resume the delivery of the digital content from a remote control includes receiving a wireless signal to resume the delivery of the digital content from the remote control.

74. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 71, wherein resuming the access and delivery includes:
determining a point in the memory on the server the digital content was last accessed; and
accessing the digital content from the memory on the server, starting at the point in the memory on the server.

75. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 34, further comprising:
receiving a signal to rewind the digital content;
rewinding a part of the digital content; and
continuing delivery of the digital content to the unit from a start of the rewound part of the digital content.

76. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 75, wherein receiving a signal includes receiving the signal to rewind the digital content from a remote control.

77. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 76, wherein receiving the signal to rewind the digital content from a remote control includes receiving a wireless signal to rewind the digital content from the remote control.

78. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 37, further comprising:
receiving at the set-top box a signal to pause the delivery of the digital content; and
pausing the access and delivery of the digital content to the unit.

79. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 78, wherein receiving at the set-top box a signal includes receiving at the set-top box the signal to pause the delivery of the digital content from a remote control.

80. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 79, wherein receiving at the set-top box the signal to pause the delivery of the digital content from a remote control includes receiving at the set-top box a wireless signal to pause the delivery of the digital content from the remote control.

81. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 78, further comprising:
receiving at the set-top box a signal to resume the delivery of the digital content; and
resuming the access and delivery of the digital content to the unit.

82. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 81, wherein receiving at the set-top box a signal includes receiving at the set-top box the signal to resume the delivery of the digital content from a remote control.

83. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 82, wherein receiving at the set-top box the signal to resume the delivery of the digital content from a remote control includes receiving at the set-top box a wireless signal to resume the delivery of the digital content from the remote control.

84. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 37, further comprising:
receiving at the set-top box a signal to rewind the digital content; and
rewinding the digital content to the unit.

85. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 84, wherein receiving at the set-top box a signal includes receiving at the set-top box the signal to rewind the digital content from a remote control.

86. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 85, wherein receiving at the set-top box the signal to rewind the digital content from a remote control includes receiving at the set-top box a wireless signal to rewind the digital content from the remote control.

87. (Cancelled)

88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein accessing the default rate further comprises:
accessing a custom product rate for the digital content;
accessing a custom category rate for the digital content;
providing the custom product rate or the custom category rate as the custom rate based on an existence of the custom product rate.

89. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein selecting the default rate or the custom rate for the digital content further comprises:
comparing the rate key of the user profile with rate keys in a product billing rate table, the product billing rate table indicating an association of rate keys and custom rates;
selecting the default rate if the rate key of the user profile is not in the product billing rate table; and
selecting the custom rate associated with the rate key of the user profile if the rate key of the user profile is in the product billing rate table.

90. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein applying a discount to the selected rate further comprises:
comparing the discount rate key of the user profile with discount rate keys in a product discount table, the product discount table indicating an association of discount rate keys and discounts; and
applying a discount associated with the discount rate key if the discount rate key is in the product discount table.

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, further comprising:

identifying a user of the unit, wherein the user profile is associated with the user;
requesting the user profile from a different multiple unit environment; and
receiving the user profile.

92. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, further comprising:
storing a plurality of user profiles;
monitoring accesses to the user profiles;
identifying common characteristics of accessed user profiles;
adjusting availability of the digitized content in response to the identified common characteristics.

93. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 92, wherein identifying the common characteristics of accessed user profiles further comprises:
monitoring a percentage of the accessed user profiles that include a particular characteristic; and
identifying the particular characteristic as an identified common characteristic if the percentage is greater than a threshold.

94. (New) A method for delivering digital content, the method comprising:
receiving a request for the digital content from a unit in a multiple unit environment at a server;
accessing the digital content from a memory on the server;
delivering the digital content to the unit, the delivery of the digital content being independent of an asynchronous delivery of a second digital content to a second unit in the multiple unit environment;
accessing a default rate for the digital content;
accessing a custom product rate for the digital content;
accessing a custom category rate for the digital content;
providing the custom product rate or the custom category rate as the custom rate based on an existence of the custom product rate;
accessing a rate key from a user profile; and
selecting the default rate or the custom rate for the digital content, based on the rate key.

95. (New) A method according to claim 94, wherein delivering the digital content includes:

- accessing content metadata about the digital content;
- accessing a filter from a user profile; and
- delivering the digital content to the unit if the content metadata satisfies the filter.

96. (New) A method according to claim 95, wherein accessing a filter includes accessing the filter from the user profile stored in a memory on a second server.

97. (New) A method according to claim 94, wherein delivering the digital content includes:

- accessing content metadata about the digital content;
- accessing user metadata from a user profile; and
- conditionally delivering the digital content to the unit based on an interaction between the content metadata and the user metadata.

98. (New) A method according to claim 94, wherein accessing a rate key further comprises:

- transferring the user profile to the server from a second server outside of the multiple unit environment.

99. (New) A method according to claim 94, further comprising:

- accessing a discount rate key from the user profile; and
- applying a discount to the selected rate based on the discount rate key;

wherein the discount rate key indicates a plurality of discounts for the digital content.

100. (New) A method according to claim 94, the method further comprising:

- accessing user metadata about a user profile; and
- selecting an advertisement that matches the user metadata; and
- sending the advertisement to the unit.

101. (New) A computer-readable medium containing a program to deliver digital content, the program being executable on a computer system to implement the method of claim 94.

102. (New) A method according to claim 94, further comprising:
receiving a signal to rewind the digital content;
rewinding a part of the digital content; and
continuing delivery of the digital content to the unit from a start of the rewound part of the digital content.

103. (New) The method of claim 94, wherein accessing the default rate further comprises:
accessing a default product rate for the digital content;
accessing a default category rate for the digital content;
providing the default product rate or the default category rate as the default rate based on an existence of the default product rate.

104. (New) The method of claim 94, wherein selecting the default rate or the custom rate for the digital content further comprises:
comparing the rate key of the user profile with rate keys in a product billing rate table, the product billing rate table indicating an association of rate keys and custom rates;
selecting the default rate if the rate key of the user profile is not in the product billing rate table; and
selecting the custom rate associated with the rate key of the user profile if the rate key of the user profile is in the product billing rate table.

105. (New) The method of claim 99, wherein applying a discount to the selected rate further comprises:
comparing the discount rate key of the user profile with discount rate keys in a product discount table, the product discount table indicating an association of discount rate keys and discounts; and

applying a discount associated with the discount rate key if the discount rate key is in the product discount table.

106. (New) The method of claim 98, further comprising:
identifying a user of the unit, wherein the user profile is associated with the user;
requesting the user profile from a different multiple unit environment; and
receiving the user profile.

107. (New) The method of claim 94, further comprising:
storing a plurality of user profiles;
monitoring accesses to the user profiles;
identifying common characteristics of accessed user profiles;
adjusting availability of the digitized content in response to the identified common characteristics.

108. (New) The method of claim 107, wherein identifying the common characteristics of accessed user profiles further comprises:

monitoring a percentage of the accessed user profiles that include a particular characteristic; and

identifying the particular characteristic as an identified common characteristic if the percentage is greater than a threshold.

109. (New) A method for delivering digital content, the method comprising:
receiving a request for the digital content from a unit in a multiple unit environment at a server;

accessing the digital content from a memory on the server;

delivering the digital content to the unit, the delivery of the digital content being independent of an asynchronous delivery of a second digital content to a second unit in the multiple unit environment;

accessing a default rate for the digital content;

accessing a custom rate for the digital content;

accessing a rate key from a user profile; and

comparing the rate key of the user profile with rate keys in a product billing rate table, the product billing rate table indicating an association of rate keys and custom rates;

selecting the default rate if the rate key of the user profile is not in the product billing rate table; and

selecting the custom rate associated with the rate key of the user profile if the rate key of the user profile is in the product billing rate table.

110. (New) A method according to claim 109, wherein delivering the digital content includes:

accessing content metadata about the digital content;

accessing a filter from a user profile; and

delivering the digital content to the unit if the content metadata satisfies the filter.

111. (New) A method according to claim 110, wherein accessing a filter includes accessing the filter from the user profile stored in a memory on a second server.

112. (New) A method according to claim 109, wherein delivering the digital content includes:

accessing content metadata about the digital content;

accessing user metadata from a user profile; and

conditionally delivering the digital content to the unit based on an interaction between the content metadata and the user metadata.

113. (New) A method according to claim 109, wherein accessing a rate key further comprises:

transferring the user profile to the server from a second server outside of the multiple unit environment.

114. (New) A method according to claim 109, further comprising:

accessing a discount rate key from the user profile; and

applying a discount to the selected rate based on the discount rate key;

wherein the discount rate key indicates a plurality of discounts for the digital content.

115. (New) A method according to claim 109, the method further comprising:
accessing user metadata about a user profile; and
selecting an advertisement that matches the user metadata; and
sending the advertisement to the unit.

116. (New) A computer-readable medium containing a program to deliver digital content, the program being executable on a computer system to implement the method of claim 109.

117. (New) A method according to claim 109, further comprising:
receiving a signal to rewind the digital content;
rewinding a part of the digital content; and
continuing delivery of the digital content to the unit from a start of the rewound part of the digital content.

118. (New) The method of claim 109, wherein accessing the default rate further comprises:
accessing a default product rate for the digital content;
accessing a default category rate for the digital content;
providing the default product rate or the default category rate as the default rate based on an existence of the default product rate.

119. (New) The method of claim 109, wherein accessing the default rate further comprises:
accessing a custom product rate for the digital content;
accessing a custom category rate for the digital content;
providing the custom product rate or the custom category rate as the custom rate based on an existence of the custom product rate.

120. (New) The method of claim 114, wherein applying a discount to the selected rate further comprises:

comparing the discount rate key of the user profile with discount rate keys in a product discount table, the product discount table indicating an association of discount rate keys and discounts; and

applying a discount associated with the discount rate key if the discount rate key is in the product discount table.

121. (New) The method of claim 113, further comprising:

identifying a user of the unit, wherein the user profile is associated with the user;
requesting the user profile from a different multiple unit environment; and
receiving the user profile.

122. (New) The method of claim 109, further comprising:

storing a plurality of user profiles;
monitoring accesses to the user profiles;
identifying common characteristics of accessed user profiles;
adjusting availability of the digitized content in response to the identified common characteristics.

123. (New) The method of claim 122, wherein identifying the common characteristics of accessed user profiles further comprises:

monitoring a percentage of the accessed user profiles that include a particular characteristic; and

identifying the particular characteristic as an identified common characteristic if the percentage is greater than a threshold.

124. (Currently Amended) A method for delivering digital content, the method comprising:

receiving a request for the digital content from a unit in a multiple unit environment at a server;

accessing the digital content from a memory on the server;

delivering the digital content to the unit, the delivery of the digital content being independent of an asynchronous delivery of a second digital content to a second unit in the multiple unit environment;

accessing a default rate for the digital content;

accessing a custom rate for the digital content;

accessing a rate key from a user profile;

selecting the default rate or the custom rate for the digital content, based on the rate key;

accessing a discount rate key from the user profile; and

comparing the discount rate key of the user profile with discount rate keys in a product discount table, the product discount table indicating an association of discount rate keys and discounts; and

applying a discount associated with the discount rate key if the discount rate key is in the product discount table;

wherein the discount rate key indicates a plurality of discounts for the digital content.

125. (New) A method according to claim 124, wherein delivering the digital content includes:

accessing content metadata about the digital content;

accessing a filter from a user profile; and

delivering the digital content to the unit if the content metadata satisfies the filter.

126. (New) A method according to claim 125, wherein accessing a filter includes accessing the filter from the user profile stored in a memory on a second server.

127. (New) A method according to claim 124, wherein delivering the digital content includes:

accessing content metadata about the digital content;

accessing user metadata from a user profile; and

conditionally delivering the digital content to the unit based on an interaction between the content metadata and the user metadata.

128. (New) A method according to claim 124, wherein accessing a rate key further comprises:

transferring the user profile to the server from a second server outside of the multiple unit environment.

129. (New) A method according to claim 124, the method further comprising:
accessing user metadata about a user profile; and
selecting an advertisement that matches the user metadata; and
sending the advertisement to the unit.

130. (New) A computer-readable medium containing a program to deliver digital content, the program being executable on a computer system to implement the method of claim 124.

131. (New) A method according to claim 124, further comprising:
receiving a signal to rewind the digital content;
rewinding a part of the digital content; and
continuing delivery of the digital content to the unit from a start of the rewound part of the digital content.

132. (New) The method of claim 124, wherein accessing the default rate further comprises:
accessing a default product rate for the digital content;
accessing a default category rate for the digital content;
providing the default product rate or the default category rate as the default rate based on an existence of the default product rate.

133. (New) The method of claim 124, wherein accessing the default rate further comprises:
accessing a custom product rate for the digital content;
accessing a custom category rate for the digital content;

providing the custom product rate or the custom category rate as the custom rate based on an existence of the custom product rate.

134. (New) The method of claim 124, wherein selecting the default rate or the custom rate for the digital content further comprises:

comparing the rate key of the user profile with rate keys in a product billing rate table, the product billing rate table indicating an association of rate keys and custom rates;

selecting the default rate if the rate key of the user profile is not in the product billing rate table; and

selecting the custom rate associated with the rate key of the user profile if the rate key of the user profile is in the product billing rate table.

135. (New) The method of claim 128, further comprising:

identifying a user of the unit, wherein the user profile is associated with the user;

requesting the user profile from a different multiple unit environment; and

receiving the user profile.

136. (New) The method of claim 124, further comprising:

storing a plurality of user profiles;

monitoring accesses to the user profiles;

identifying common characteristics of accessed user profiles;

adjusting availability of the digitized content in response to the identified common characteristics.

137. (New) The method of claim 136, wherein identifying the common characteristics of accessed user profiles further comprises:

monitoring a percentage of the accessed user profiles that include a particular characteristic; and

identifying the particular characteristic as an identified common characteristic if the percentage is greater than a threshold.